BLACKBURN, DARWEN AND HYNDBURN

The Citizen

Wednesday, December 19, 2012 | The **local** newspaper for our community | blackburncitizen.co.uk

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

REMEMBERING A member of the congregation and the choir of St Peter's School, Salesbury, with their director of music Jill Fourie and Canon Andrew Hindley

Love shines on for those we have lost

Hundreds at hospice's Light Up a Life service

By DAN CLOUGH

Hundreds of people gathered to light candles to remember loved ones, at the East Lancashire Hospice Light Up a Life Service.

Hospice supporters were invited to attend the special service, which included hymns, readings, and the switching on of the Christmas lights.

Sixteen-year-old Lewis Baker-Vose switched on the Christmas tree lights in memory of his grandma, Ruth Baker, a former patient at the hospice.

Lewis, who has cerebral palsy, has raised almost £1,000 for the hospice and the service fell on the same day as his 16th birthday.

Events fundraiser Denise Gee said: "The service has an emotional connection with the community.

"This time of year is often the time when many people miss loved

TURN TO PAGE 12

Firm pledges to raise therapy centre cash

An Oswaldtwistle family, who have already raised £7,000 for Holly House, in Accrington, are celebrating securing a sponsor for the disabled children's therapy centre, where three-year-old Finley Rosbotham has made amazing progress.

STORY 3

A BIT OF ALL WHITE

East Lancashire's own Wendi Peters, who played Cilla in Coronation Street, steals the show in White Christmas, which runs at The Lowry Theatre, Salford Quays, until January 5.

LEISURE 11

Heroes are honoured

Public and police heroes from across East Lancashire are commended for their bravery at a special ceremony 8

STORY 8

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Citizen In brief

Help save lives

People in the Hyndburn area can give blood at Hippings Vale Community Centre, Harvey Street, Oswaldtwistle, on Thursday, January 3, from 1.15pm to 3.30pm, and from 5.15pm to 7.30pm. For information, call 0300 1232323.

Policing matters

Policing in an area of Accrington will be discussed at a public meeting tonight (Wednesday). Central and Spring Hill's Police and Community Together meeting is at Fairfield Street Community Centre, from 6pm.

Have your say

Darwen Town Council next meets on Tuesday, January 8, from 7pm, at the town hall, in Croft Street. The public are welcome to attend, and a public forum will be held at the end of the meeting for people to ask questions.

Please step this way

Blackburn Rambling Association will walk through Darwen on December 30, meeting at Blakey Moor, at 8.50am. The 'B' level ramble will be between eight and 10 miles. Walkers should wear warm clothing, and boots.

Smoking deck nod

A bid to build a smoking and beer deck at an Accrington pub has been approved by Hyndburn Council. The application was for changes to the Bees Knees pub, in St James' Street.

Firm to fundraise for therapy centre

Finley's family thrilled to secure a sponsor

By EMMA CRUCES

A family's campaign to support a disabled children's therapy centre is celebrating success after getting a sponsor for the facility.

The Rosbotham family, in Oswaldtwistle, launched a campaign to raise £20,000 after seeing the amazing progress their son, Finley, made with cerebral palsy treatment there.

The family of the three-year-old, who have raised £7,000 themselves, are now stepping back from community fundraising after gaining the backing of a large firm.

Equilibrium Healthcare has pledged to undertake a year of fundraising on behalf of the Accrington centre, as their chosen charity of the year. The Greater Manchester-wide company has over 300 members of staff who will host months of fund-raising events for children at the Blackburn Road centre.

The company, which runs homes and hospitals providing mental health and learning disability services, has raised up to £100,000 for charities in the past.

After donating £2,000 to kickstart the scheme, Equilibrium has challenged employees to compete for an award to be given to the top fundraiser next Christmas.

Finley's mum, Kelly, said the Finley's Friends appeal would now be taken over by Equilibrium. She said: "We are thrilled and I feel like we have achieved what we set out to do. Holly House is very happy with the success of the campaign.

"We've loved doing the fundraising these past months and we've met amazing people.

"What we wanted was more people to sit up and take notice – to realise that Holly House was there, and we have done that."

SUPPORT: Three-year-old Finley Rosbotham, who has cerebral palsy and, above, the Holly House therapy centre

Head of clinical services at Equilibrium, Jonathan Rogers, said: "It's difficult to choose a charity because everyone is very worthy. Meeting the staff, I was amazed at their dedication and I felt they absolutely deserved all the support we could give.

"They need £20,000 for a new IT suite and we will do all we can over the next 12 months to hit that target."

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Contact us

News: 01254 298205
lt_editorial@nqnw.co.uk
Pictures: Neil Johnson on 01254 298286
njohnson@lancashire.newsquest.co.uk
Advertising: Therese Heffernan on 01254 298320
Therese.Heffernan@nqnw.co.uk
Distribution: Maxine Hunt on 01254 298244
maxine.hunt@lancashire.newsquest.co.uk

Published by Newsquest (North West) Ltd – a Gannett Company – Newspaper House, High Street, Blackburn BB1 1HT, Tel: 01254 678678 and printed at Herald and Times Print Centre, Fullerton Drive, Glasgow G32 8FG. A Newsquest Media Group publication. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 78.9 per cent of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2011

IMPORTANT - GP & PHARMACY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES 2012/13

NHS East Lancashire

HYNDBURN PHARMACIES	Christmas Eve Monday 24/12/2012	Christmas Day Tuesday 25/12/2012	Boxing Day Wednesday 26/12/2012	New Year's Eve Monday 31/12/2012	New Year's Day Tuesday 1/01/2013
"your local Boots pharmacy", 50 Queen Street, **GREAT HARWOOD**	8.30am – 6.00pm *	Closed	Closed	8.30am – 6.00pm *	Closed
Accrington Late Night Pharmacy, 188 Blackburn Road, **ACCRINGTON**	7.30am – 10.30pm *	10.00am – 8.00pm *	10.00am – 8.00pm *	7.30am – 10.30pm *	10.00am – 8.00pm *
Accrington Pharmacy, 257 Whalley Road, **ACCRINGTON**	9.00am – 4.00pm *	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 4.00pm *	Closed
Asda Pharmacy, Hyndburn Road, **ACCRINGTON**	3.00am – 6.00pm *	Closed	9.00am – 5.00pm *	6.00am – 6.00pm *	10.00am – 4.00pm *
Aston Pharmacy, 351 Blackburn Road, **ACCRINGTON**	9.00am – 7.00pm	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 7.00pm	Closed
Baxenden Pharmacy, 514-516 Manchester Rd, **BAXENDEN**	8.45am – 6.00pm *	Closed	Closed	8.45am – 6.00pm *	Closed
Boots the Chemist, 2 Cornhill, **ACCRINGTON**	9.00am – 5.30pm *	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 5.30pm *	Closed
Cohens Chemist, 53-55 High Street, **RISHTON**	9.00am – 1.00pm / 2.00pm – 6.00pm	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 1.00pm / 2.00pm – 6.00pm	Closed
Cohens Chemist, 322-324 Union Road, **OSWALDTWISTLE**	9.00am – 6.15pm	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 6.15pm	Closed
Cohens Chemist, 240 Union Road, **OSWALDTWISTLE**	9.00am – 1.00pm / 2.00pm – 6.30pm	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 1.00pm / 2.00pm – 6.30pm	Closed
Eccles Chemist, 67/69 Union Road, **OSWALDTWISTLE**	9.00am – 1.00pm / 2.00pm – 6.00pm	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 1.00pm / 2.00pm – 6.00pm	Closed
E B Holden, 9-11 Queen Street, **GREAT HARWOOD**	9.00am – 6.00pm	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 6.00pm	Closed
Huncoat Pharmacy, 20 Station Road, **HUNCOAT**	9.00am – 6.00pm *	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 6.00pm *	Closed
Lloydspharmacy, 154 A/B Blackburn Road, **ACCRINGTON**	8.30am – 6.00pm	Closed	Closed	8.30am – 6.00pm	Closed
Lloydspharmacy, 13-17 Peel Street, **ACCRINGTON**	9.00am – 7.00pm *	Closed	11.00am – 3.00pm *	9.00am – 7.00pm *	11.00am – 5.00pm *
Oswaldtwistle Pharmacy, 300 Union Road, **OSWALDTWISTLE**	7.30am – 10.30pm	7.30am – 10.30pm	7.30am – 10.30pm	7.30am – 10.30pm	7.30am – 10.30pm
Paradise St Pharmacy, 1 Paradise Street, **ACCRINGTON**	8.30am – 6.30pm	Closed	Closed	8.30am – 6.30pm	Closed
Rishton Pharmacy, 42 High Street, **RISHTON**	9.00am – 1.00pm / 2.15pm – 6.15pm	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 1.00pm / 2.15pm – 6.15pm	Closed
Superdrug Pharmacy, 20 Cornhill, **ACCRINGTON**	9.00am – 5.30pm	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 5.30pm	Closed
Tesco Instore Pharmacy, 2 Eagle Street, **ACCRINGTON**	8.00am – 7.00pm	Closed	Closed	8.00am – 7.00pm	Closed
Tesco Instore Pharmacy, Queen Street, **GREAT HARWOOD**	8.00am – 7.00pm	Closed	Closed	8.00am – 7.00pm	Closed
The Co-operative Pharmacy, 37 Brown Street, **ACCRINGTON**	8.30am – 6.00pm	Closed	Closed	8.30am – 6.00pm	Closed
The Co-operative Pharmacy, 198 Blackburn Road, **ACCRINGTON**	8.45am – 6.00pm *	Closed	Closed	8.45am – 6.00pm *	Closed
The Co-operative Pharmacy, 36 Pickup Street, **CLAYTON-LE-MOORS**	9.00am – 12.30pm / 13:30pm – 6.00pm	Closed	Closed	9.00am – 12.30pm / 13:30pm – 6.00pm	Closed
The Co-operative Pharmacy, 406 Blackburn Road, **ACCRINGTON**	7.00am – 11.00pm	Closed	Closed	7.00am – 11.00pm	Closed

NHS EAST LANCASHIRE
HYNDBURN PRACTICES CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS 2012/2013

Practice	Monday Christmas Eve	Tuesday Christmas Day	Wednesday Boxing Day	Monday New Year's Eve	Tuesday New Year's Day
	24 December, 2012	25 December, 2012	26 December, 2012	31 December, 2012	1 January, 2013
Abbey Surgery	8.00am – 12.30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 12.30pm	CLOSED
Accrington Victoria Health Access Centre Accrington Victoria Hospital	This service operates over 365 days per year from 8.00am - 8.30pm				
Blackburn Road Medical Practice	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED
Clayton Medical Centre	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED
Dill Hall Surgery	8.00am – 6.30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 6.30pm	CLOSED
Dr Agarwal - Rishton	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED
Dr Bello – Church	8.00am – 6.30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 6.30pm	CLOSED
Dr Valluri - The Medical Centre, Rishton	8.30am – 4.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.30am – 4.00pm	CLOSED
Eagle Medical Practice Acorn Primary Health Care Centre	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED
Great Harwood Medical Group	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED
Higher Heys Surgery	8.00am – 1.30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 1.30pm	CLOSED
King St Medical Centre	8.30am – 12.30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.30am – 12.30pm	CLOSED
Myrtle House	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED
Oswald Medical Centre	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED
Peel House Medical Practice	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED
Richmond Medical Centre	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED
The Cabin Surgery	8.00am – 1.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 1.00pm	CLOSED
The Royle – Gt Harwood Health Centre	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.00am – 4.00pm	CLOSED

The following pharmacies can only be contacted by email, telephone or post – they cannot accept prescriptions face to face:

Dialachemist	No.4 Petre Road, Clayton Business Park, Clayton Le Moors, BB5 5JB	0800 008 6366	www.dialachemist.com
Brierfield Pharmacy	67 Colne Road, Brierfield, BB9 5NP	01282 697555	www.brierfield-pharmacy.co.uk
NHS Pharmacy	22 Newchurch Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 7QX	0800 320 2111	www.nhspharmacy.com
My Pharmacy	68 Queen Street, Great Harwood, BB6 7AL	01254 882800	www.mynhspharmacy.co.uk

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Helpline for distressed

A helpline has been set up for people in Lancashire who are feeling down, and need to talk to someone over the festive period.

The mental health helpline, run by Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust and staffed by volunteers, is open for people worried about their mental health, or that of someone they care about. It is common for people to be feeling low, or more down than usual, at this time of year, with 1 in 15 people in Britain affected by Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and other mental health problems, the authority said.

Lorraine Khalaf, the helpline's manager, said: "The helpline is here to offer confidential support, and information, to people who feel distressed and want someone to talk to, or even just listen to them."

The helpline will be open every day, from 7pm to 11pm, throughout Christmas and New Year, and can be contacted on freephone 0500 639000.

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Moves to raze former market

By BILL JACOBS

Final moves to demolish Blackburn's old market will be made this week.

Planning permission to knock down the complex, closed in June 2011 to make way for its replacement underneath the Mall, is set to be granted by councillors this week.

It will pave the way for the new £5million bus station development on Ainsworth Street.

The remainder of the site had been earmarked for a major supermarket development, but that has been blocked by a dispute between Blackburn with Darwen Council and Thwaites, who want to vacate their adjoining Star Brewery and replace that with a supermarket development of their own.

Meetings between borough officials, brewery management, and Sainsbury's, the preferred choice of both, are continuing to resolve the dispute.

The council has been under pressure to demolish the old market because of unsightliness, pigeon infestation, and fears of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Tomorrow (Thursday) the borough's planning and highways committee will consider an application to demolish the empty shell next year. It will also cover knocking down the adjoining perimeter shops, a former public house, and the link bridge to the Mall shopping centre.

UNSIGHTLY: Blackburn's old market which was closed last year

Officers have recommended councillors approve the application, subject to strict conditions over noise and vibration and the entrance and exit of vehicles involved, including wheel washing.

No objections to the proposal have been received, although Lancashire County Council wants to conduct an archaeological excavation of the site to search for the remains of a Roman road thought to cross the site, once the buildings have been knocked down, and before any further development.

No neighbouring properties, or businesses, objected to the plan.

Planning officers tell councillors in a report: "Demolition is required to enable redevelopment of the land, including the recently-approved new bus station. All retail units within the application site are now vacant to enable demolition to occur."

Action to protect, and relocate, nesting birds, and any nesting bats, will be taken during the demolition.

Citizen In brief

Focus on new hobby

New members are invited to join Accrington Camera Club.
The club meets every Friday, from 7.45pm, at Rishton Primetime.

For further information, call Ian Kitchin on 01254 884762.

Free heart screening

People aged between 14 and 35 can take advantage of free heart screenings, at Darwen Access Point, in Duckworth Street, on February 9. The session is being run by charity Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY). To book, visit www.c-r-y.org.uk

Volunteers needed

The Blackburn branch of Barnardo's is seeking volunteers to help run its charity shop, based in Blackburn Morrisons. Anyone interested is asked to visit the shop.

Tattoo studio nod

Plans to open a tattoo studio, in Blackburn Road, in Accrington town centre, have been approved by Hyndburn Council which granted change of use permission for the shop.

Over-55's invite

New members are invited to join Blackburn's Over-55's Club, at the Peridot Community Base, in Peridot Close, every Thursday, between 2pm and 4pm. Contact Irene Heaney on 01254 697655.

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Tower attacked by vandals again

By BILL JACOBS

The new dome on Darwen Tower has been vandalised again, just weeks after it was repaired by the teenager who defaced it.

The latest damage has horrified supporters of the 114-year-old landmark who fear the top of the 85-foot monument might have to be closed. That would deprive walkers of spectacular views.

The dome blew off during high winds in November 2010 and last year was replaced by apprentice engineers at Darwen metal fabricators WEC free of charge.

In March it was vandalised – names and obscenities were scratched into the paintwork, a marker pen was used to write on the windows, and even the plaque commemorating the donation of the new dome was defaced.

In November, the 16-year-old boy convicted of the £500 damage worked with the Friends of Bold Venture Park to repair, and restore, the monument.

Last week, walker Brian Freeman discovered the latest vandalism, which has horrified local councillor Paul Browne and WEC training manager Kris Mercer.

Mr Freeman, 77 from Farington, near Leyland, is a keen walker and regular visitor to the tower. He said: "It seems the idiots are not going to stop defacing the tower. I love to walk on Darwen Moor. Now I always check to see who has scratched their names in the paintwork. They must take a sharp implement with them."

Coun Browne said: "This is absolutely appalling. It's worse than depressing. I don't know what we can do to stop it. I will have a word with WEC. We don't want to do it, but the only option may be to close off the top of the tower which would be a tragedy."

Mr Mercer said: "It's just very depressing. I just hope we can find a way to stop the vandalism. If not, we may have to lock the door at the top of the tower, or seal it off at the bottom, which would be a great shame."

DEFACED LANDMARK: The recent graffiti on the new dome of historic Darwen Tower, which was discovered by walker Brian Freeman, top

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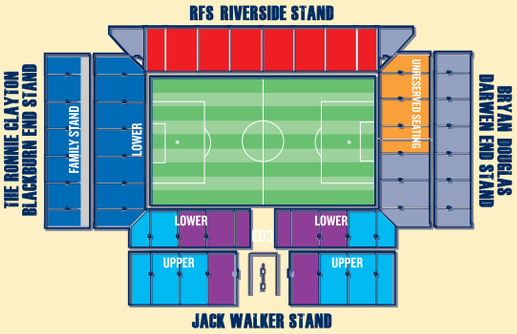

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Beware rogue cabs warning

Revellers are being reminded not to use unlicensed taxis, or flag down private hire vehicles, over the Christmas period.

The following tips have been issued to help taxi users have a safe festive journey:

- **'Yellow plate' private hire vehicles must be pre-booked. Only 'blue plate' hackney carriages can be flagged down, or hired from a taxi rank. It is illegal for private hire vehicles to pick up passengers in the street, unless they have been pre-booked**
- **Check drivers are wearing ID badges that have not expired**
- **Check the ID of drivers against photographs on ID badges**
- **Check cab licence plates at the rear of vehicles, or on the left-hand side of windscreens, are in date**
- **Don't give personal details to drivers**
- **Agree private hire fees in advance. Metred hackney cab fees are set by the council.**

Disbelief at loading bay parking ticket

Disabled couple left car outside shutdown market

By **JESSICA CREE**

An elderly couple who were issued with a parking ticket for leaving their car in a loading bay outside the old Blackburn Market, which closed more than a year ago, said the situation was 'a joke'.

Robert Fulton, 80, and his wife Jean, who is in her 70s, parked their yellow Vauxhall in the space, in Brown Street, so they could easily access shops in The Mall.

The couple, who live in Pole Lane, Darwen, have both had knee replacement surgery and had displayed their blue badge.

But Blackburn with Darwen Council officials said the loading bay was still used by some businesses in the area, including the Blackburn Transport Office, Gala Bingo, and the Job Centre.

Mr Fulton, who used to run a home brewing stall on the old market, said he couldn't believe he had received the ticket.

He said: "It was a joke and an expensive one at that. My wife has problems walking, and I have a false knee, so it is essential we park close to the shops.

"The market has been shut down for a long time, so we have no idea who is loading outside.

"It is an empty building."

Coun Dave Harling, executive member for regeneration at Blackburn with Darwen Council, said: "The ticket was correctly issued in this case as blue badge holders are not permitted to park in loading bays. This includes those at the former market, which are still enforceable due to some businesses still using the area.

"The couple can appeal to the council as we have a policy to cancel the first parking fine issued to a blue badge holder," he added.

BLUE BADGE: Robert Fulton said he couldn't believe he received the ticket

Citizen In brief

Chance to apply for allotment spaces

Keen gardeners are being urged to claim available allotment spaces. Hyndburn Council has vacant raised beds in Great Harwood, Oswaldtwistle, and Accrington. Larger plots are also available at Meadoway, Queens Road West, and Woodnook Vale. For details, call Ian Marfleet, at the council, on 01254 356180.

Carols by candlelight

The annual festival of nine lessons and carols will be celebrated at Blackburn Cathedral on Sunday. The service, which begins at 7.30pm, will take place in candlelight. The Cathedral Choir will be singing traditional and modern carols, under the direction of Samuel Hudson.

Market's festive fun

Join in the festive fun at Blackburn Market on Saturday, as the market celebrates the spirit and essence of Christmas, with carols, seasonal tastings, live music, and much more. The events will run between 11am and 3pm.

Parking crackdown

Police are to crack down on inconsiderate parking in Roman Road, Blackburn, on Sundays and at other times. The problem is believed to be caused by football teams using nearby playing fields.

Citizen In brief

Santa and reindeer will be dropping in

Father Christmas and his reindeer will be popping into Brockholes Nature Reserve on December 22 and 23.

The visit is part of the Lancashire Wildlife Trust venue's Christmas Festival taking place from 11am to 3pm each day. Children have the chance to receive a gift from Santa, and have their photo taken with him, for £4.95.

£130 quiz jackpot

The Sunnyhurst pub, in Tockholes Road, Darwen, hosts a Bumper Christmas Quiz tonight (Wednesday), with free supper and mince pies. There is a £130 jackpot up for grabs.

All are welcome.

Soul night party

The 'King of Soul and Motown' Edwin Dukes will perform at a Christmas Eve party, at Accrington Golf Club, in Devon Avenue, Oswaldtwistle. For information, and tickets, call 01254 381614.

New prospectus

Accrington and Rossendale College has published its new prospectus for full and part-time courses.

Called Fresh Start, it can be obtained by calling 01254 354354, or from info@accross.ac.uk

Heroes are honoured

By VANESSA CORNALL

A mum-of-one who feared she would die after her partner doused her in lighter fluid and set her on fire was among several people honoured for their bravery by police at a special ceremony.

Belinda Fay, 19, from Darwen, gave evidence in two trials which resulted in her boyfriend receiving a three-year prison sentence, before bravely agreeing to help the police raise awareness of domestic violence.

Jacob Carr, eight, was the youngest person to be praised at the event, hosted by Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Chief Superintendent Bob Eastwood, at Greenbank Police Station, Blackburn. Jacob who lives in Rishton, helped his elderly neighbour after she fell and broke her hip. The youngster was riding his bicycle along Westwood Avenue, in September, when he heard someone shouting for help. He ran to tell his mum, who went to help the 82-year-old woman.

PRAISE: Jacob Carr, eight, was the youngest to be commended

A father and son were also honoured after they helped police track down an armed robber. The pair were leaving the Co-op, in Whalley Old Road, Blackburn, when they saw two masked men enter the shop. They returned to their car and called police before giving officers a running commentary, leading to a successful conviction.

Forensics officer Rick Hek was also commended for his work during this investigation.

A 12-year-old Blackburn boy also received an award after helping police to quickly access CCTV footage relating to the death of a man who had fallen from a second floor window of a property, owned by his parents.

Albert Beckett, 64, of Oswaldtwistle, was praised for wading into Kemp Delph quarry to save an elderly lady who was attempting to commit suicide.

PC Shaf Mahmood was recognised for helping to talk down a suicidal man threatening to jump off a multi-storey car park in Blackburn. And PC Christopher Seed was commended for helping a terrified couple escape from a burning building by driving a police Land Rover underneath the bedroom window to break their fall.

Chief Supt Eastwood said: "Our officers and staff are there to protect our local communities on a daily basis. Their acts demonstrate such outstanding bravery, or relentless commitment to tackling crime, or saving people's lives, that they deserve special recognition. We also use this ceremony as a way of highlighting the exceptional actions of members of the public, many of whom show true heroism."

Other award winners included:

- **Blackburn's award-winning Engage team** who fight against child exploitation. The team is made up of Blackburn with Darwen Council's social care department, Brook sexual health charity, the Coalition for the Removal of Pimps, and the Primary Care Trust.
- **Blackburn response officer PC Louise Briggs** was commended for her consistently high performance, and for her calm, professional, and determined attitude when helping to save a suicidal man.
- **Armed response officers PC Matthew Canty and PC Gary Oldham** were commended for making a substantial contribution to Eastern Division. Over the past few years, they have been responsible for some of the most significant arrests of burglars and car criminals.
- **Two members of the public** who helped save a man after he suffered a heart attack in Darwen. A Blackburn resident and off-duty nurse were having a drink, in the Bridgewater pub, when they saw a man had collapsed and was not breathing. They quickly gave CPR until an ambulance arrived. He returned home the following week and has now recovered. Doctors said he would have died without the quick response and initial treatment.
- **PC Michael Davies** and a number of residents who act as volunteers for the force were presented with long service medals.
- **PC Jon Scorah** was honoured for pulling a man from a burning building, in Clitheroe, after he was overcome by smoke.
- **PC Nick Gray, PC Tommy Lord and an off-duty anaesthetist** were commended for their quick thinking and professionalism in trying to save a 15-year-old boy who collapsed in Wellgate, Clitheroe, in May 2011. Sadly, he died later in hospital, although doctors said their actions gave the boy the best chance of survival.
- **PCs Carl Chew, Paul Faloon and Jonathan Taylor,** from the Ribble Valley, who tried to rescue a suicidal man, who was in Dilworth Upper Reservoir, in Longridge.

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Citizen In brief

New, and existing, blood donors needed

Give blood at Blackburn's Jan's Conference Centre, in Higher Audley Street, Blackburn, on Thursday, December 27.

Sessions run between 10am and 12.30pm, and from 2pm to 4pm.

New, and existing, donors are welcome.

To book an appointment, call 0300 123 23 23.

Carnival bookings

Bookings for next year's Accrington Carnival, on June 15, at Accrington and Rossendale College, are being taken. Accrington Lions are urging stall holders, entertainers, and groups, to get involved. Call 0845 8337386.

Beer cans dumped

Concerns have been raised about the number of discarded beer cans being dumped on the Leeds Liverpool Canal towpath at the rear of the Raj Restaurant, in Bolton Road, during the day.

Stepping Out date

A walking project is taking a stroll around Oswaldtwistle next week. The Stepping Out group will meet at the Black Dog, Oswaldtwistle, on Thursday December 27, at 10.15am, for a 10.30am start. For details, contact Fran Riley on 01254 380441.

Hungry pupils are food for thought

Free school meals bridge poverty gap

By LISA WOODHOUSE

Schools in East Lancashire are doing all they can to stop pupils living in poverty from going hungry.

A shocking survey said two-thirds of UK teachers said staff provided pupils with food, or money, if they come into school hungry, according to a Children's Society report, carried out in partnership with the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and Association of Teachers and Lecturers.

But Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council said they had a strong uptake of free school meals, with around 90per cent of eligible children taking advantage of the benefit.

The 'Food for Thought' survey shows almost three-quarters of teachers reported seeing children coming to school with no lunch, and no means to pay for one. But union bosses said a school dinner could be the child's only hot meal of the day. Simon Jones, national executive member for the NUT, said: "East Lancashire is one of the most deprived areas in the country and some families find it difficult to provide healthy, but cheap, food for their children at home.

"I have heard anecdotal evidence of teachers providing pupils with food, and I have done it myself as a teacher, and the problem is getting worse.

"For some, this may be the child's only hot meal of the day. The children are the real casualties of the government's austerity measures which are hitting the poorest families the hardest."

The Society's separate Fair and Square report found that 300,000 of the 1.3million children registered for free school meals are not taking advantage of them – mainly due to the stigma attached.

County Coun Susie Charles, cabinet member for children and schools, said: "Good, regular nutrition is essential if children are to concentrate on their lessons and enjoy school life, and in Lancashire we do everything we can to help.

"Our catering service provides reasonably-priced, healthy, and appetising, school meals that meet nutritional standards, and we provide breakfast clubs where these are required by individual schools.

"We are always particularly keen to reach out to parents who are eligible for free school meals for their children and we do this in a number of ways, including liaising with our district council partners and school leaders.

"Free school meals have the double benefit of not only providing a child with a nutritious two-course lunch, but also bringing in additional funding for their school via the Pupil Premium."

The Children's Society recommends all children in poverty should get free school meals, and that a cashless system should be implemented to de-stigmatise the benefit.

FUELLING LEARNING: A school dinner could be a child's only hot meal of the day

Citizen The views

'Of course. They're children and they should all get a meal at school.'
Corianne Clark, 19, Blackburn

'I think they should, because no child should be singled out.'
Oliver Fradd, 18, Darwen

'I think it would be better all round if children automatically got a free meal at school.'
Ruby Stuart, 88, Blackburn

Have your say: Online
Should all children receive free school dinners?

WEDDING SHOWS

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MECURE LAST DROP VILLAGE, BOLTON
SUNDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2013
LANCASHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB, OLD TRAFFORD
SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2013
THE PARK ROYAL HOTEL, WARRINGTON
SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2013
THE VILLAGE HOTEL, BURY
SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2013
SAINTS RLFC, LANGTREE PARK, ST HELENS
SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2013
DE VERE WHITES, REEBOK STADIUM, BOLTON
SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2013
EWOOD PARK, BLACKBURN

All shows are from 11AM to 3PM with catwalks at 12NOON and 2PM.

Stands available please call The Events Team on **0845 313 9463** (local rate) or email: events@nqnw.co.uk

CitizenTime

Music, clothes, TV, what next?

Peter Andre is rarely out of the public eye these days, what with sell-out concerts, various reality TV shows, and now having designed his own clothing range. The singer talks about that new venture, where his future lies, and why he loves performing.

60 SECONDS WITH ... PETER ANDRE

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO GET INTO FASHION DESIGNING? It's a great thing to do, the Clothes Show Live in Birmingham. I'm going to be up that way doing the tour and it's a great way for me to launch my clothes range. It's interesting because when you launch things like that and you see some people's comments on the internet, I thought they'd think it's cheap rubbish. But with the clothing, the shirts are handmade in Italy, and it's proper quality stuff.

DOES THE ALBUM ANGELS AND DEMONS REPRESENT A TURNING POINT IN YOUR LIFE? I think it does, yes. I think the last three albums I did, I've always had a bit of a problem getting national radio and so we release our albums purely because we're touring. And because the tours are selling out, it's amazing.

YOUR CHILDREN ARE YOUR No1 PRIORITY - HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO BALANCE YOUR PRIVATE LIFE WITH EVERYTHING ELSE? I have a good management team that helps me put everything in order. The kids are coming up on the weekend and we're going to spend time together then. Junior's always asking, 'Daddy, what time do I come on stage?!'

BUSINESSMAN, SINGER, DESIGNER, PRESENTER - WHICH DO YOU PREFER AND WHY? I think TV is my future, but nothing can ever come close to me being on stage; the person I become, how happy I become, how focused I become – it's all to do with stage, more so than recording an album. For me, it's all about the concerts now.

What's on

gigs

MICHAEL McGOLDRICK — Band on the Wall, Manchester, Thursday, December 20.
TIM EDEY — Bury Met, Thursday, December 20.
BLACKBURN BANDS CHRISTMAS PARTY — with the Wagon Wheels, R.Y.A.N., King George's Hall, Blackburn, Friday, December 21.
SOULTRAIN — Burnley Mechanics, Saturday, December 21.
ASIA — Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, Friday, December 21.
THUNDER — Manchester Academy, Friday, December 21 and Saturday, December 22.
CAST — Sound Control, Manchester, Friday, December 21.
CHRIS SCOTT — The Grand, Clitheroe, Saturday, December 22.
GEMMA LOUISE DOYLE — St Paul's Club, Blackburn, Saturday, December 22.
THE RAINBAND — Manchester Ritz, Saturday, December 22.
ELICIA — St Paul's Club, Blackburn, Monday, December 24.

comedy

MARCUS BRIGSTOCKE — Burnley Mechanics, Thursday, December 20.
MILTON JONES — Burnley Mechanics, Saturday, January 5.

theatre

PETER PAN — Octagon Theatre, Friday, until Saturday, January 12.
RATS' TALES — Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, until Saturday, January 12.
ARABIAN NIGHTS — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Friday, until Saturday, January 12.

BOX OFFICE

The Citizen readertravel

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COLOURFUL: Seasonal costumes

A Christmas cracker

Having put the tree and trimmings up at home and done a spot of Christmas shopping, I thought my festive fervour was reaching its peak.

But then I went to see White Christmas, and tipped my seasonal spirit off the scale.

I don't know if it was the music, the dancing, the set design, the costumes, the surprise ending, or the whole package – there was something about this production that left me with a warm, fuzzy glow.

WHITE CHRISTMAS
The Lowry Theatre, Salford Quays, until January 5. Details on 0844 815 4873

And, judging by the looks on the faces of other theatregoers, I wasn't alone. The real feelgood factor was inspired by the cast – the comedic chemistry between Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, played by Steven Houghton and Paul Robinson – best highlighted by their rendition of Sisters, and the sister act of Betty and Judy Haynes, played by Claire Sweeney and Louise Bowden.

Dallas star Ken Kercheval played the role of General Henry Waverly in perfect father-figurely fashion.

But it was East Lancashire's own Wendi Peters who stole the show as Martha Watson, the no-nonsense receptionist at the Columbia Inn. There were strains of her Coronation Street character Cilla in the performance, but all in good humour, and in its place. And what a solo! Belting out Let Me Sing and I'm Happy set the tone for the rest of the show.

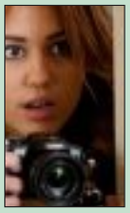
SUZANNE GELDARD

STAR: Wendi Peters as Martha Watson

Cinema round-up

THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (12A) Director Peter Jackson returns to Middle Earth in the first instalment of The Hobbit trilogy, based on JRR Tolkien's novel.

TINKER BELL AND THE SECRET OF THE WINGS 3D (U) In the magical realm of Pixie Hollow, ruled by Queen Clarion, the fairies hatch a plan for mischief.



SO UNDERCOVER (12A) So Undercover sends a young private eye on her most tricky mission: to infiltrate a college campus.

DIAMOND HOLIDAYS

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Citizen In brief

Fireworks and carols

There will be fireworks, carols, and refreshments, at Emmanuel Pentecostal Church, in Oxford Street, Accrington, on December 23, from 7.30pm onwards. Entry is free.

Visit Santa's grotto

Children in Darwen can meet Santa in the Annexe, in Darwen Market, on Saturday. Santa's Grotto will be open from 10.30am to noon, and from 1pm to 2.30pm. Photographs are available. The event is supported by Darwen Rotary Club.

Crackdown on louts

A police crackdown has been launched on anti-social behaviour in the Abbeydale Way, Fern Gore Avenue, Spring Street, and Spring Hill Road areas, in Accrington, after complaints.

Homes regeneration

Developer PlaceFirst is starting on site at Woodnook, Accrington, to remodel 200 empty homes. The first phase this month is seeing work begin on properties between Augusta Street and Booth Street.

Service of Light

Blackburn with Darwen Council Mayor Zamir Khan, and his mayoress, will attend the outdoor Service of Light, at St James School and Church, in Lower Darwen, today at 5pm.

Residents 'shaken by passing lorries'

Resurfacing work not to blame, says National Grid

By LISA WOODHOUSE

COMPLAINTS: Business owners say vibrations could now be felt when heavy trucks went past on Blackburn Road, Darwen

Residents and businesses on a busy main road through Darwen claim a temporary surface put down after gas works is causing properties to shake when lorries drive past.

A large section of Blackburn Road was dug up earlier this year as National Grid carried out maintenance work to pipes running under the road.

It was resurfaced with a temporary substance ahead of expected resurfacing work to be carried out in the new year.

But the business owners said vibrations could now be felt when heavy trucks went past.

However, National Grid said it had carried out its own inspection following complaints and was satisfied the problem was not due to its resurfacing work.

David Scott, of Design Hair and Beauty Salon, believed the road surface was insufficient.

He said: "You can feel the 40-tonne wagons driving past.

"There are dips in the surface and you can see the lorries dip into them as they drive along."

Shopna Hussain, 37, who runs and lives above Aman's convenience store, in Blackburn Road, said: "At 5am, when big lorries go past, it causes the wardrobes to shake because of the vibrations.

"It has been happening since the gas works were started in August.

"It is disturbing us every morning when everything starts shaking. It is like a tremor."

Earcroft councillor Trevor Maxfield, who is deputy chairman of Darwen Town Council, said the surface should be repaired by National Grid.

He said: "I have had a couple of complaints from residents. The neighbours had been campaigning for a while to get it resurfaced.

"If a utility company has the right to come and dig it up, they should be expected to put it back how it was."

A spokesman for National Grid said: "We recently received a complaint about vibrations at a property.

"However, we investigated this and found that the vibrations were nothing to do with our resurfacing work.

"Our vital gas mains replacement work was planned and agreed with the council and has now been completed.

"As with the mains replacement work, the resurfacing work was discussed and agreed with the council.

"The current weather conditions are not appropriate for permanent resurfacing work so we have carried out temporary resurfacing as an interim measure."

SWITCH-ON: Lewis and brother Oliver Baker-Vose

Helping hospice

FROM PAGE 1

ones the most, and Light Up a Life offers a chance for them to come together and reflect, and share family time, while embracing all the hard work carried out by communities in East Lancashire to ensure the hospice doors stay open."

For those too poorly to attend the cathedral, the Christmas tree lights were switched on in the hospice grounds at the same time. Donations can be made up to Christmas. Forms are available from hospice reception, or call 01254 733412.

Each year, people are invited to take part in the service by making a donation to the hospice. They receive a card, and a light is lit in their loved one's memory.

CitizenPuzzles

Citizen ... Crossword

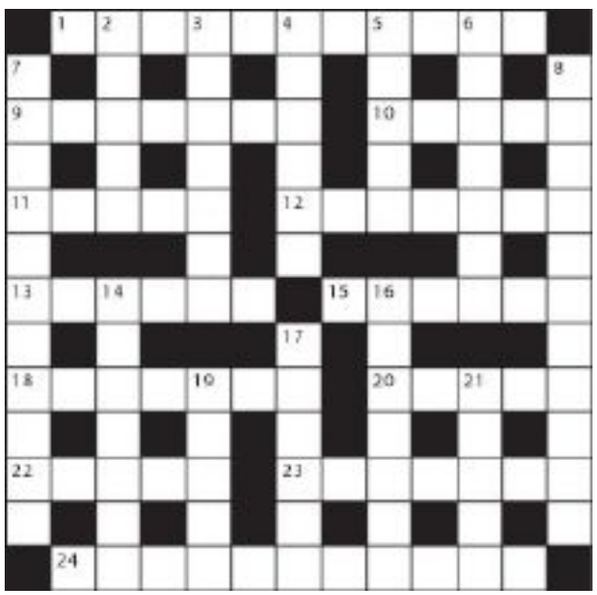
CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

1. As rough help, one could be used on the farm (11)
9. Little flower (7)
10. Head of government in to control and rule (5)
11. Poor hack near the end of the road is worn out (5)
12. Cupboard requiring more air? (7)
13. Polishes up various lances (6)
15. A certain point should be zero (6)
18. Fancy having an icon round at home (7)
20. Loose description of small coal (5)
22. I will be trapped in one's dreadful row (5)
23. Drawing a wagon with nothing on (7)
24. Properly arranged water supply requisitioned (4-7)

DOWN

2. Survived when the fiend turned up (5)
3. Yet to be charged (7)
4. Member of the gang who goes on strike? (3-3)
5. In which a number of females may be seen (5)
6. Travelling round capital of Albania making inroads (7)
7. As geographical representations, they are outstanding (11)
8. Making a contract to deal with somebody (11)
14. Inspect what was once a source of diamonds? (7)
16. Unusually verbose notice (7)
17. One who is foiled by the barrier on the right (6)
19. What one says after shuffling the pack (5)
21. Sounds like an advance in isolation (5)



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1. Choosing the best (11)
9. School (7)
10. Idle (5)
11. Valley (5)
12. Offence (7)
13. Place (6)
15. Caustic (6)
18. Trade (7)
20. Spaghetti (5)
22. Temerity (5)
23. Narration (7)
24. Careless (11)

DOWN

2. Fissure (5)
3. Component (7)
4. Test (3,3)
5. Mount (5)
6. Manager (7)
7. Scheming (11)
8. Elastic (11)
14. Mortification (7)
16. Imitator (7)
17. Rare (6)
19. Sphere (5)
21. Beelzebub (5)

Solutions

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS: ACROSS: 1. Ploughshare; 9 Rivulet; 10 Reign; 11 Jaded; 12 Armoire; 13 Cleans; 15 Nought; 18 Imagine; 20 Slack; 22 Noise; 23 Cartoon; 24 Well-ordered. DOWN: 2 Lived; 3 Unladen; 4 Hit-man; 5 Harem; 6 Railing; 7 Projections; 8 Undertaking; 14 Examine; 16 Observe; 17 Fencer; 19 Ideal; 21 Alone.

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS: ACROSS: 1. Eclecticism; 9 Academy; 10 Inert 11 Combe; 12 Umbrage; 13 Locate; 15 Acidic; 18 Traffic; 20 Paste; 22 Nerve; 23 Recital; 24 Inadvertent. DOWN: 2 Chasm; 3 Element; 4 Try out; 5 Climb; 6 Steward; 7 Calculating; 8 Stretchable; 14 Chagrin; 16 Copycat; 17 Scarce; 19 Field; 21 Satan.

Wordsearch: Blooming great

L	L	C	J	A	E	A	A	V	M	U	I	T	R	U	T	S	A	N
O	U	R	H	A	I	W	I	E	A	I	N	U	T	E	P	A	P	P
B	P	T	T	R	I	C	O	N	L	P	I	L	U	T	I	O	R	I
E	I	E	N	V	O	S	A	S	E	A	K	N	A	L	P	I	M	C
L	N	N	I	E	Y	S	H	C	V	D	Z	M	H	P	M	M	U	E
I	D	I	C	R	N	A	E	C	A	N	R	A	Y	R	B	N	M	B
A	I	M	A	B	B	Z	L	C	U	A	D	A	O	E	D	D	E	O
L	H	S	Y	E	V	U	Y	U	R	F	R	S	G	B	P	N	H	U
H	C	A	H	N	A	C	T	T	M	H	E	O	I	W	S	O	T	G
I	R	J	T	A	L	D	S	T	I	I	N	I	V	M	S	I	N	A
B	O	P	E	A	I	I	P	V	E	I	R	O	R	A	I	T	A	I
I	E	N	M	N	D	E	L	V	A	R	J	P	J	R	E	A	S	N
S	S	E	M	I	O	U	X	Y	R	H	C	H	N	I	W	N	Y	V
C	N	G	P	N	T	E	L	O	I	V	V	U	T	G	L	R	R	I
U	C	S	Y	P	A	I	R	E	T	S	I	W	P	O	E	A	H	L
S	A	R	E	T	S	A	B	L	U	E	B	E	L	L	D	C	C	L
L	I	D	O	F	F	A	D	V	Y	S	I	A	D	D	E	D	P	E
E	V	O	L	G	X	O	F	M	U	I	N	A	R	E	G	C	J	A
G	A	E	G	N	A	R	D	Y	H	S	I	R	I	C	A	L	I	L

It's dark, dismal and wintery, so here's a a wordsearch to make you think of brighter times ahead – the grid above hides the names of 40 flowers you can expect to see next spring and summer. Can you find them all in 15 minutes?

ACACIA, ASPIDISTRA, ASTER, AZALEA, BEGONIA, BLUEBELL, BOUGAINVILLEA, BUTTERCUP, CARNATION, CHRYSANTHEMUM, CYCLAMEN, DAFFODIL, DAHLIA, DAISY, EDELWEISS, FOXGLOVE, FUCHSIA, GARDENIA, GERANIUM, HIBISCUS, HYACINTH, HYDRANGEA, IRIS, JASMINE, LILAC, LILY, LOBELIA, LUPIN, MARIGOLD, NASTURTIUM, ORCHID, PEONY, PRIMROSE, PRIMULA, ROSE, TULIP, VERBENA, VIOLET, WISTERIA.

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GOLF SHOES, beige/white, Hi-Tech, size 5, new, suit junior/lady, excellent xmas present. Bargain £15.00 01200 441432

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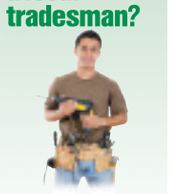

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10 Kia Ceed 1

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